

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Study Guide

Answer the following questions as you read the novel.

Chapter 1

1. How does Aunt Polly find out that Tom did go swimming?

2. What is it about the new boy that bugs Tom so much?

3. Describe Aunt Polly (behavior and looks) using 3 quotes from the book.

4. What does "spare the rod and spoil the child" mean?

5. Translate slang: truck, lick, dander up, powerful warm, lam, suck eggs.

Chapter 2

1. Name three things that Tom got the kids to give him.

2. According to Twain, what is the difference between work and play?

3. Translate slang: bully, taw, gay, up a stump, honest injun, shucks

Chapter 3

A) Put the events that occurred in Chapter 3 into the proper sequence. Fill in the blanks as needed.

Tom...

1. _____ gets whacked for Sid breaking the sugar bowl...
2. _____ goes to the new girl's house and lies under the window...
3. _____ forgets about Amy Lawrence...
4. _____ fantasizes about _____
5. _____ sees a new girl and starts _____
6. _____ throws a rock through a window
7. _____ gets a _____, (which he picks up with his toes)
8. _____ acts as a general while playing Army...
9. _____ nails Sid with dirt clods...
10. _____ steals a _____.

B) Why did Aunt Polly NOT apologize to Tom?

Chapter Four

A) Put the events that occurred in Chapter 4 into the proper sequence. Fill in the blanks as needed.

Tom...

1. _____ only pretends to wash up.
2. _____ annoys several kids as he shows up for Sunday School.
3. _____ tries to memorize his Bible verses.
4. _____ turns in enough tickets for a Bible.
5. _____ trades _____ for Bible verse tickets.
6. _____ blurts out the wrong answer.

7. _____ was in awe of the visitor, who was a _____, as well as _____'s _____.

8. _____ gets asked to name the first two disciples.

B) What does the last line of the chapter mean?

Chapter 5

What happened? Why do you think Mark Twain put this chapter in?

Chapter 6, Chapter 7, and Chapter 8

1. Why do people believe in superstitions? Do you have any superstitions?

2. Describe Huck using 3 quotes from the book.

3. Draw a diagram of the game that Tom and Joe play.

4. What mistake does Tom make with Becky?

5. After the fight with Becky, Tom first dreams of _____.

6. Then he thinks he might be a _____, a _____, or a _____.

7. He finally decides to become a _____, because _____

8. Why won't Tom "fall" (die) when he and Joe are "sword-fighting"?

9. Give three examples of superstitions in these three chapters. How do their superstitions compare with some of the ones we still have today?

Chapter NINE and TEN and ELEVEN

1. How do each of the boys react to the scariness of the graveyard? Who seems more scared? Why might this be?

2. Draw a sketch of the murder scene, showing the positions of everyone, including the boys.

3. Slang: keep mum, afeared, by hokey, dasn't, geeminy

4. How are Tom and Huck contrasted in Chapter 10? Who seems more realistic about the danger they face? Why might this be?

5. What does the last line of Chapter 10 mean? What happened?

6. What is the superstition of the howling dog?

7. How does news travel in Tom's village?

8. When Injun Joe tells his version of the events in the graveyard, Tom and Huck are amazed that something doesn't happen. What? What do they think the reason behind this is?

9. How does Tom ease his conscience with regard to Muff?

10. "It's blood, it's blood, that's what it is!" Who's talking? What's going on?

11. Why doesn't Injun Joe get punished for body-snatching?

Chapter 12 and 13

1. "Because if he'd 'a had one, she'd 'a burnt him one herself!" Who's talking? What's going on? What does he/she mean?

2. "When Jeff arrived, Tom accosted him, and "led up" warily to opportunities for remark about Becky, but the giddy lad never could see the bait." TRANSLATE!

3. How does Tom convince Joe that a pirate's life is better than a hermit's?

4. Why does Mark Twain call the boys "curiously inconsistent pirates"? (Last line of Chapter 13.)

5. "Translate" the dialogue below from Chapter 13:

"Ain't it gay?"

"It's just nuts! What would the boys say if they could see us?"

"Say? Well they'd just die to be here--hey Hucky?"

"I reckon so. Anyways I'm suited. I don't want nuthin' better than this...here they can't come and pick at a feller and bullyrag him so."

"Oh, we'll have a bully time."

Chapters 14-15

1. What was the "boom" the "pirates" kept hearing and why did it make them feel happy?

2. What did Tom do before he left camp? What do you think he wrote?

3. What do the villagers think happened to the boys?

4. "Well the things is ours anyway, ain't they?" Who's talking? What's going on? Name two of the things.

Chapters 16-24

1. What was one piece of good news that the boys had after the huge storm?

2. "I've lost my knife. I reckon I better go and find it." Who's talking? What's going on? Why is this funny?

3. "Two of the savages almost wished they had remained pirates." Why? What's going on?

4. Reread the last line of chapter 17. Explain.

5. "Pretty thin--as long a dream as that, without any mistakes in it." Who's talking? What's going on?

6. How did the other boys react to the return of the pirates?

7. "Go away and leave me alone, can't you! I hate you!" Who's talking? Whom is he/she talking to? What's going on?

8. "Be so mean if you want to! I know something that's going to happen..."

9. "Tom, how could you be so noble?" Explain.

10. Draw a diagram of the prank the boys pulled on the master.
11. Name three of the things that came to town during the summer.
12. Why was Tom disappointed in the U.S. senator who came to town?
13. Why did Tom think the storm in Chapter 22 was intended for him?
14. "Little hands, and weak--but they've helped Muff Potter a power, and they'd help him more if they could." Who's talking? Why is this ironic?
15. "Tom was out late that night and came to bed through the window." Where do you think Tom went?
16. After the trial, Tom's days were _____ but Tom's nights were _____.

Chapter 25-31

1. Think about how Tom has made up with Becky and with Aunt Polly and what he did for Muff...Is Tom "growing up"?
2. How does Tom want to spend any treasure they find? Huck? What do the differences in what they want tell us about differences in their personalities or outlooks on life?
3. Give two reasons why Tom says they don't find treasure like they should.
4. Where do you think "Number Two" is? What does it mean? What makes you think so?

5. How had Injun Joe been "hiding out" in town all along?

6. What does Tom dream about? What does Huck dream about? What does this tell us about the differences in the two boys? (see question #2) Tom might be called a _____, whereas, Huck might be seen as a _____. Why might this be?

7. If Injun Joe is drunk, why won't the boys go back and grab the box from his lair?

8. Why does Injun Joe want revenge on the widow? What does he want to do to her?

9. "Huckleberry Finn indeed; it ain't a name to open many doors, I judge. But let him in lads, and let's see what's the trouble." Who? What?

10. How/when are Tom and Becky discovered missing?

11. "It's a name that can open this door night or day, lad!--and welcome!" Who's talking? What's going on? Who's he talking about? Why has his attitude changed? What is "unusual" about this statement?

12. What would you do in the cave?

13. Why didn't Injun Joe chase Tom?

Chapter 32-end

14. Did Injun Joe get what he deserved? Explain why you think so/not. How does Tom feel about his death?

15. How did people feel about Injun Joe's funeral?

16. How did Becky behave in the cave? Was her behavior realistic, or was she just a stereotype of a helpless girl? Explain why you think so.

17. "The boys in this town will take more trouble, and fool away more time hunting up 6 bits worth of old iron...than they would to make twice the money at regular work." Who? What? Why is this **ironic**?

18. What mean thing did Sid do at the widow's party?

19. Once everyone found out about the treasure, what happened to every "haunted" house in St. Petersburg?

20. "No Tom...I won't live in them cussed smothery houses. I like the woods and the river, and hogheads..." Who? What? What do you think?

21. How does Tom get Huck to go back to the widow?

22. Why does Mark Twain stop the story where he does?

23. Has Tom grown up? Use examples from the book to show what you mean.

24. Has Huck changed? Use example from the book to show what you mean.